‘Justice League’ too serious about saving the world **MOVIETIMES > D14**

Local firm finds Amazon Key’s security loophole **BUSINESS > A12**

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2017

The Seattle Times

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CHANCE OF SHOWERS
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House swiftly passes tax bill; challenges lie ahead in Senate

$1.5 TRILLION IN CUTS

Insurance requirement, state, local tax deductions likely biggest showdowns

By THOMAS KAPLAN AND ALAN RAPPEPORT
The New York Times

WASHINGTON — The House passed the most sweeping tax overhaul in three decades Thursday, taking a significant leap forward as lawmakers seek to enact $1.5 trillion in tax cuts for businesses and individuals and deliver the first major legislative achievement of President Donald Trump’s tenure.

The swift approval came two weeks after the bill was unveiled, without a single hearing on the 400-plus-page legislation and over the objections of Democrats and 13 Republicans. The focus now shifts to the Senate, where Republicans are moving quickly ahead with their own tax overhaul, which differs in substantial ways from the House bill.

The Senate Finance Committee voted 14 to 12 along party lines to approve the Senate version of the tax package late Thursday. The approval helps clear the way for the full Senate to consider the bill after Thanksgiving, although it remains to be seen whether it has the support to pass the chamber.

“We’ve taken a big step today, but of course there are many more steps ahead,” the finance committee chairman, Sen. Orrin G. Hatch, R-Utah, said after the vote.

The ability to enact the tax overhaul faces significant obstacles, with several Senate Republicans expressing concerns about the effort. Senate leaders, who want to pass legislation along party lines, can afford only two defections to win passage through the narrowly divided chamber. In a blow to Senate Republicans, an analysis of its plan released Thursday projected the bill would actually raise taxes on low-income Americans within a few years.

Republican lawmakers must also

See > **TAX PLAN, A11**

HOUSE TAX PLAN eliminates alimony deduction > **A11**

Franken faces call for ethics inquiry

BROADCASTER SAYS HE KISSED, GROPED HER

Democratic senator apologizes for 2006 actions

By PAUL KANE, AMY B WANG AND LINDSEY BEVER
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Sen. Al Franken, D-Minn., faced swift condemnation and bipartisan calls for an ethics investigation Thursday after he was accused of forcibly kissing and groping a broadcaster and model while traveling overseas in 2006.

The allegations against Franken by Leeann Tweeden, who traveled with him on a USO trip to the Middle East before he was elected to the Senate, comes amid a growing swell of accusations of sexual misconduct by men in powerful positions.

Beloved by liberals for his fierce attacks on President Donald Trump, Franken found few defenders as Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., and Senate Minority Leader

See > **FRANKEN, A8**

ROY MOORE targets female accusers > **A4**

PERFECT TIMING

Snowpack up to 5 times deeper than normal as ski areas open

ERIKA SCHULTZ / THE SEATTLE TIMES

Joann Lee, 17, pushes her little sister, Iris Lee, 8, on a sled Thursday at The Summit at Snoqualmie on Snoqualmie Pass. Following them are sister Irene Lee, 21, and mom Grace Lee (in red). The Maple Valley family came to the ski area to make snowmen and snow angels and to sled.

By CHRISTINE CLARRIDGE
Seattle Times staff reporter

Get your skis, sleds and snowshoes ready, winter-sports lovers: The snowpack level is “cranked up” and calling, according to the Northwest Avalanche Center.

Snow levels are higher than average across the region. At Hurricane Ridge in the Olympic Mountains, the 53-inch snowpack is more than 500 percent higher than normal, with 10 inches usually seen at this time, according to the center’s first snow-depth climatology report, released Wednesday.

At Mission Peak in the Cascades, the snowpack is 325 percent above normal.

And at Mount Baker — which claims to hold the world record for verifiable measured snow in a season, with 1,140 inches of snow in the 1998-99 season — there were 48 inches this week, 209 percent above average.

“We’ve had an active weather pattern and it only takes a few storms to get the snowpack

See > **SNOWPACK, A9**

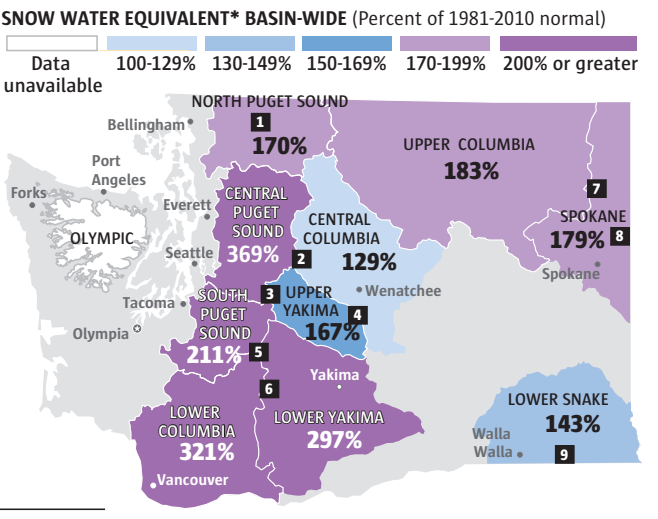
Washington snowpack

Snowpack as of Nov. 15 as a percentage of annual average for this date (based on the first reading of the day):

WASHINGTON SKI RESORTS

1. Mount Baker Ski Area
2. Stevens Pass
3. Summit West, Snoqualmie
   Summit Central, Snoqualmie
   Summit East, Snoqualmie
   Alpental, Snoqualmie
4. Mission Ridge Ski & Board
5. Crystal Mountain
6. White Pass
7. 49 Degrees North Mountain
8. Mount Spokane Ski Area
9. Ski Bluewood

*Snow water equivalent represents the depth of water in the snowpack, if the snowpack were melted, in inches.



Source: nrcs.usda.gov

MARK NOWLIN / THE SEATTLE TIMES

Job applicant sues charity after it rejects him for being bisexual

By CHRISTINE WILLMSEN
Seattle Times staff reporter

A bisexual Christian man is suing Seattle’s Union Gospel Mission after it refused to hire him because of his sexual orientation.

Union Gospel Mission, which has provided addiction recovery, one-on-one counseling, emergency shelter and legal support services for homeless people in King County since 1932, says employees must live by a “Biblical moral code.”

Attorney Matthew Woods, 31, of Seattle

When a staff attorney position opened in October 2016 for the nonprofit, religion-based organization, mission volunteer Matthew Woods was encouraged to apply, according to the lawsuit filed Thursday in King County Superior Court.

But as he started the application process, he disclosed he was in a same-sex relationship. David

See > **LAWSUIT, A9**

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